

Daily Chronicle

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1878.

FATE OF A RAPE.

Execution of Steve Griffey in Cocke County, Friday.

For the Rape of a Nine Year Old Child.

Thus Avenge One of the Most Atrocious Crimes on Record.

He Confesses the Crime, But Denies Using the Knife.

And Dies Brave and Punctilious. With Scarcely a Struggle.

Yet Full of Hope Touching His Spiritual Condition.

At 3 o'clock Friday last, one mile from Newport, Cocke county, Stephen Griffey was hanged for the rape of Eveline Clark, a girl nine years old, thus expiating one of the most atrocious and brutal crimes in the criminal annals of this country.

HISTORY OF HIS CRIME.

According to the evidence adduced before the court which tried the case, the following is a brief detail of the horrible and inhuman crime for which Griffey has paid the penalty of his life:

On the morning of February 22, 1877, Eveline Clark, a little girl, 9 years of age, daughter of Wm. Clark, of Cocke county, started out with her little brother, about 8 years old to go on an errand to Mr. Carr's store, being sent by their mother.

They stopped at Mark Bibles', and there met with Stephen Griffey, or "Gus" Griffey, as he was commonly known. He went off with them and having a bottle of whisky gave the girl as many as three drinks, and also the boy, threatening to cut their throats unless they drank as he ordered. After reaching the woods Griffey induced the children to leave the road and go to a big log under the pretense that he had a rabbit trapped there. Upon arriving there he drove the boy back to the road, under threat of his life, and then it was he accomplished.

HIS HELLSH DESIGN.

And, like a fiend in human shape, as the evidence clearly shows him to be, he actually used his knife in a horrible manner to assist him in carrying out his inhuman and brutal passion and purpose. The details of the horrible crime beggars description and are too revolting and disgusting to be put in print.

It was, the screams and cries of the girl at the time, that he was driven back by Griffey at the peril of his life. They all went then about a half mile, when the girl fell with exhaustion and could not get up. Griffey left them, but came back after a while, said if they told on him he would kill them, and again went off in a run, saying he was going after his father, but that was the last seen of him. He made her promise, under a threat of her life, however, to say that she fell and snuggled herself.

After lying

HELPLESS AND ALMOST DEAD

For several hours her brother with her, Eva was found by Mr. Penland in a frightful condition, lying on a neighbor's house, medical assistance was rendered, and after lingering for weeks she recovered.

Griffey was seen soon after committing the crime by Anderson Varner, to whom he had been previously acquainted. He was seen in a penitentiary dress—had broken down the door of a man named Hall, and would have to leave the country. Sifting his accomplices to his words he took to the woods, but it was not long until he was captured near the North Carolina line, and jailed. He afterwards escaped, but was recaptured. At the March term 1877 of the Circuit Court for Cocke county, he was arraigned, a true bill found for rape and he put upon trial. The case was continued, however, and at the November term of the court on the 29th of Nov., a verdict of guilty was rendered and he sentenced to

HANG BY THE NECK

Jan. 8, 1878. Judge Jas. G. Rose tried the case having been but a short time on the bench, and it was his first death sentence. Mr. J. C. J. Williams, of this city, was prosecuting attorney by interchange and the prisoner was represented by Hon. J. M. Meek, of New Market.

A new trial was refused in the case, but an appeal to the Supreme Court was granted, and Griffey removed to the Knoxville jail, where he has remained ever since. His case came up in the Supreme Court Sept. 22, 1878, when the action of the court below contained, and Friday, Nov. 22, fixed as the day of his execution.

THE CONDEMNED CULPRIT.

Stephen Griffey, according to his own statement, was at the time of his execution, about 21 years of age, and consequently was about 19 when the crime was committed; was never married. He was born in Greene county, and has lived in this State all his life. His father, John Griffey, now lives at New Market. Steve was in appearance about the average, or perhaps under the average of a green strapping mountain youth. He was of an awkward, awkward appearance; possessed of rather a mediocre and bore very little evidence of anything like culture or refinement, mentally or physically. His store of intelligence or education was very limited indeed, and although he could barely read and write, he could not carry on an intelligent conversation on any subject, and most all his communications were carried on in monosyllabic utterances.

As to his morals, he appears to have been during his life about the common run of lads raised up in a rugged mountainous country. He had never made any pretensions in the way of religion and was something of a wild, reckless character, though not specially by outbursting, although he had been in some difficulties before this last crime. Still during the whole time he was confined in the Knoxville jail, about twelve months, he was never heard to swear an oath, and was a very peaceable, well-behaved prisoner. He seems to have been devoid of any moral or religious instruction at home, which in a great degree accounts, no doubt, for his reckless disposition.

STOLID INDIFFERENCE THROUGHOUT.

From the time he was first committed to the Knoxville jail very little attention was paid to him, more than the other prisoners, who are always visited regularly by the Young Men's

Christian Association. He in turn manifested no feeling scarcely about his future, and even when the final sentence was passed on him by Judge Freeman of the Supreme bench, he manifested an appearance of stolid indifference and unconcern which was remarkable, and there was not an unusual twitching of a muscle or any other outward manifestation of emotion of any kind while he was receiving his sentence.

Soon after this, however, Rev. Dr. T. W. Humes, Rev. Thos. Duncan and others in this city became interested in the spiritual welfare of the doomed man, and visited him daily, praying with him and pointing out the necessity of a change of heart and life. He was civil and closely attentive, though not much affected at first, yet finally, under their ministrations, he became penitent, to a degree, made a

PROFESSION OF RELIGION.

Was baptized and the sacrament administered to him. His powers of comprehension were found to be very limited and deficient, and he still did not seem fully to realize his condition, saying most of the time he did not think he would be hanged. He always denied the charge of which he was convicted, and asserted that it was a concocted plan to deprive him of his life, by the father of the little girl, with whom he had formerly had a falling out.

FUTILE EFFORTS FOR COMMUTATION.

After having been with Griffey every day for some time, and seen considerable of him, Dr. Humes and others became impressed with the conviction that he was not of an evil and evenly balanced mind, and the evidence was corroborated by parties who had witnessed some of his actions, resembling epileptic fits. Accordingly these warm Christian hearted gentlemen set about to make an effort to get a commutation of his sentence to imprisonment for life. Dr. Humes prepared a petition to that effect, which was numerously signed and forwarded to Governor Porter. He also received a number of other petitions to the same effect. There was no evidence of unsoundness of mind or anything of the kind adduced in either of the courts, however, nor was there any recommendation of mercy by the court, nor in fact any mitigating circumstances whatever. Consequently the Governor had nothing to go upon and could not within his power with the lights before him, grant the request. Further effort was made to have Griffey reprieved for a few days till a medical examination could be made, but this was not granted, and the prisoner was taken up by Sheriff Reeder Wednesday night and turned over to Sheriff C. F. Boyer, of Cocke county.

Griffey seems to have had very few friends, and no one seemed to care for him, not even his relatives, for none came to see him while he was confined here, except the father and a little brother who were here a short time a few days since. Some interest was manifested towards the last, however, and several petitions were gotten up in his behalf.

HE MAKES A CONFESSION.

Sheriff Reeder arrived in Newport by the Bancombe Road Thursday night with the prisoner and he was given into the hands of Sheriff Boyer and committed to jail. As he entered the jail his coffin, which had been provided, was visible by the dim glare of the lantern light, and at this Griffey exhibited some emotion, and seemed considerably stirred up. He ate no supper that night. He was visited by several friends, among them a minister, and to Mr. Jos. L. Bibles, editor of the *Reporter*, he made the first confession of his crime, having stoutly denied it all along. The substance of his confession was that he committed the rape, but did not use a knife. We understand also that physicians, who made an examination, but were not witnesses before the court, corroborate this statement that no sharp instrument was used.

He was again visited Friday morning by various parties, and prepared for the final moments were going on. At 15 minutes before 1 o'clock p. m., he was led from the jail with the black cap on and ropes around his neck by a guard of 75 men, provided by the Sheriff, started

TO THE GALLIWS.

Which had been erected the day before, a few hundred feet from the old under ground, between the Pigeon and French Broad rivers.

The point was reached in about a half hour, and here was congregated perhaps 1,500 or 2,000 persons, men, women and children, who had come from all directions and in all manner of conveyances.

On examination the cross-beam of the gallows was found to have been sawed half in two, but it was tested and found safe yet. This was the only apparent attempt to retard the progress of the execution in any way.

After the wagon was driven under the gallows Rev. R. F. King was called upon to read the prayer on the wagon and conduct devotional exercise. Before he had proceeded, however, Griffey was allowed by his own request to deliver some

FINAL REMARKS.

He said in a distinct voice and without tremulation: Ladies and Gentlemen: I appear before you to-day to answer for the crime which I have been charged with. I am not guilty as to all the charge. I have been brought to this, by bad company and whiskey. I am guilty of the rape but not of using the knife.

At this point Dr. Hooper asked him if he was not so drunk he didn't know what he was doing. He replied: "I was under the influence of liquor at the time, but was sober enough to know I did it, and what I didn't do. I am innocent of the charge that has been brought against me."

The hand-cuffs had been taken off and he jabbered freely while talking. At this juncture his father was called up, and an affecting scene occurred between them. His father and two cousins were the only relatives at the execution. His mother is not living.

The Sheriff notified him the time was short for him, in the world, and he asked Rev. Mr. King for his favorite tune, "Jesus Lover of My Soul," which was done, Griffey joining in feelingly. Mr. King then offered prayer, Griffey responding "Amen," etc., at intervals, and seemingly deeply interested.

His friends then came up to shake hands and bid him

him favors. He entreated every one to meet him

IN A BETTER WORLD.

Declaring that he died confident of a triumphant entrance, above assured that his sins were forgiven.

Being in the time was up, the handcuffs were adjusted again, his feet secured, and the wagon was driven out, letting him swing off gently, precisely at 3 o'clock. He faced death bravely, coolly, and without any exhibition of trepidation or fear. Just 7 minutes after swinging off pulsation ceased, and 23 minutes afterwards he was taken down. He died without a struggle or twitching of limb or muscle, and when taken down his face wore a calm and peaceful expression, as if sleeping, exhibiting no signs whatever of the terrible death he suffered. After being put into the coffin the father came up, kissed and wept over it, making another affecting scene

REMARKS.

This is the first legal hanging that ever took place in Cocke county, and the first white man ever hung in Tennessee for rape. As to the law, the second court in the indictment upon which he was convicted is founded on Sec. 4614, Code of Tennessee, which provides that "Any person who shall unlawfully and carnally know and abuse a female under the age of ten years, shall, on conviction, be punished as in case of rape." The statute prescribing the punishment for rape, passed in 1871, provides that, "Whoever is convicted of the rape of any female shall suffer death by hanging; provided the jury before whom the offender is tried and convicted, may if they think proper, commute the punishment for life, or for a period of not less than ten years."

KNOXVILLE, TENN., NOV. 19, 1878.

John W. Paulett, Esq., City:

DEAR SIR: I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the Tennessee Edition of Mitchell's New Intermediate Geography just issued from the press of J. H. Butler & Co., Philadelphia. I am very much pleased with the work especially the maps, finding them much fuller and clearer than those in some other books with which I am acquainted.

The Tennessee matter is excellent, and makes the book invaluable to schools in this State. The amount of information in reference to the State, compressed within so few pages is wonderful.

We are using the new edition in the Knoxville City Schools and our pupils are delighted with it. Respectfully yours, J. A. RAYL, President Board of Education.

INDICATIONS: For Tennessee and the Ohio Valley, partly cloudy weather, followed by rain areas, and west portions warm southerly veering to colder northwest winds, and falling followed by rising barometer.

Get one of those beautiful Fire Sets, at Hawkins, Butt, DePue & Co's.

The Champion Monitor Leads the Stove trade as the finest and most improved Coal Stove made.

Go and see the finest Stove in the world; the "EARLY BREAKFAST," at HAWKINS, BUTT, DEPUÉ & CO'S.

THE NEW ORLEANS STORE

Has Received by Express.

200 New and Cheap Cloaks.

A Nice plain Beaver Cloak only \$3.00.

A much better Cloak 3.50

A stylish trimmed Cloak, only 5.00

An elegant Cloak, nicely trimmed 6.50

A Matelasse Cloak, velvet trimmed 8.00

A Matelasse or Beaver Cloak, trimmed with silk, velvet and finge..... 10.00

Our endless variety of all styles and at all prices up to \$50. Call before the assortment is gone.

D. B. LOVEMAN, & Co.

Daily Weather Report.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., NOV. 21, 1878.

Time of Observation, 7 A. M.

Barometer corrected for altitude, 30.0

Thermometer, 59.0

Direction of Wind, variable

Force of Wind, 0.0

State of Sky, Clear

Time of Day, 11:32 A. M.

Barometer, 29.92

Thermometer, 54.0

Direction of Wind, S.W.

Force of Wind, 4

State of Sky, Clear

Time of Day, 2:00 P. M.

Barometer, 29.88

Thermometer, 54.0

Direction of Wind, S.W.

Force of Wind, 8

State of Sky, Clear

Time of Day, 4:00 P. M.

CITY ITEMS.

STAR DRIPS,

The finest Syrup in the Market, found only at

PETER KERN'S.

JAMES K. QUEENER, formerly with H. & N. Stern, is now connected with Joseph T. McTeer, Wholesale and Retail Clothier, 148 Gay Street. He will be pleased to have all his old friends call and see him at his new place of business.

FRESH ARRIVAL

Of Fall Goods at Mrs. Kate Dallas. Mrs. Kate Dallas has just received her new Fall Goods, a beautiful line, and she says she never bought goods so cheap before. They are going rapidly.

THE DRESS MAKING DEPARTMENT

Is still presided over by Miss S. V. Davis, who always guarantees a fit. Select your goods and leave your orders at once.

Buy your MILLINERY at DUNBAR'S.

Millinery Large Stock and lowest prices, at DUNBAR'S.

Choice Eating Apples, at Locke's.

For Rent, A small House and Grounds, and Out Buildings suitable for a Market Garden, or Dairy, two miles from Knoxville. Inquire of E. Dean Dow, at Central Agency.

Millinery New Goods every week, at DUNBAR'S.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of an execution issued from the Circuit Court of Knox county Tennessee in and against J. A. Johnson vs. W. A. Henderson et al. I will sell this legal lease on SATURDAY the 14th day of December 1878 in front of the court house in the city of Knoxville, Knox county Tennessee a well as public outcry to the highest bidder for cash in hand all the right title claim interest and demand that W. A. Henderson one of the defendants and in and to the full wine described town lots, to wit: Nineteen Lots in Subd. Van Gilder & Henderson's Addition to Knoxville Knox county Tennessee lying north of the East Tennessee Virginia and Georgia Railroad and east of Crocker street and known and designated as follows: Lot 10 on Subd. Van Gilder & Henderson's map of said Addition to wit: Nos. 212 223 225 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000

By virtue of a vendition exponas issued from the Circuit Court of Knox county Tennessee, in and against J. F. L. Johnson vs. E. B. Johnson and directed to the sheriff I will on the 7th day of December 1878 in front of the court house door in this city of Knoxville, Tennessee offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash one tract of land lying in the 34 and 35 acres of Knox county and bounded as follows: On the West by George Shippe on the North by David Blair, on the South by J. F. L. Johnson, on the East by Cardwell, containing 15 acres more or less and subject to a mortgage executed by the defendant to S. M. S. Shippe, David Blair, O. J. F. Cardwell and A. Mack Johnson. This the 7th day of November 1878. J. F. L. Johnson, Plaintiff. Deputy Sheriff

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